



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

NEWS SUMMARY

July 23, 2008

**Burlington Wisconsin Man Indicted for Attempting to Entice a Minor
and Possession of Child Pornography**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced that Randall J. Knope, 32, of Burlington, Wisconsin, was indicted yesterday for attempted enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b), and possession of child pornography, in violation 18 U.S.C. § 2254(4)(B)(2).

An affidavit filed in federal court described the alleged offenses in detail. Knope had repeated contact, via on-line chats on the internet, with a girl he believed to be 15 years old. In fact, the person he was communicating with was an undercover Milwaukee Police Department Detective assigned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau's High Technology Unit. After repeatedly having explicit sexual conversations, the two arranged to meet for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. On June 28th, Knope arrived at the parking lot of a southside Milwaukee business where he had arranged to meet the 15 year old. Knope was immediately arrested by the Milwaukee Police Department when he arrived.

Subsequent to his arrest, Knope appeared in federal court in the Eastern District of Wisconsin and was ordered detained without bond until his trial. If convicted of the charges, Knope faces a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 20 years imprisonment on the enticement charge, and a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years on the child pornography charge. In addition, the indictment contains a provision seeking the forfeiture of any property of Knope's which was used to commit or to facilitate the commission of the violations set forth in the indictment. This includes a laptop, personal computer and other property.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Milwaukee Police Department, Criminal Investigation Bureau's High Technology Unit. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Penelope L. Coblentz.

According to United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic, the "Department of Justice has made the protection of our nation's children a top priority through Project Safe Childhood, and prosecutions such as this further this priority." USA

Biskupic also praised the work of the Milwaukee Police Department's High Technology Unit.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of charging an individual and does not constitute evidence of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#

For additional information contact:

Assistant United State Attorney Penelope L. Coblentz
Public Information Officer Dean Puschnig
(414) 297-1700